



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

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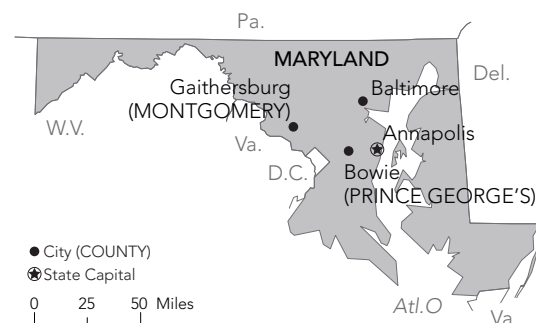
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Maryland had an estimated 1,675 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in June 2002) developed and implements the ten-year plan to end homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: Interim Secretary of the Department of Human Resources Brian Wilbon has chaired the Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness since 2010.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Maryland	Baltimore	Montgomery County	Prince George's County
Persons in homeless families ²	5,057	935	526	434
Number of family shelter beds ³	2,899	625	328	468
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	24	49	14	14
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	8.04%	23.36%	4.50%	6.91%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2005	2008	2002	No plan
10-Year plan target population	All	All	All	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Locally managed	Biennially	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Locally managed	City of Baltimore Homeless Services	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Locally managed	City of Baltimore Homeless Services	Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	Prince George's County Department of Social Services
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Maryland Department of Human Resources	City of Baltimore Homeless Services	Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	Prince George's County Department of Social Services

Hearing Homeless Households in Maryland

Established in 1987, the Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP), a non-profit organization with a staff of ten, works with over 330 volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and law students to provide legal services to and advocate on behalf of homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Maryland. HPRP staff and volunteers conduct intake at shelters and soup kitchens in the City of Baltimore and Montgomery County to facilitate clients' access to legal representation in housing, public benefits, and criminal record expungement matters. HPRP's statewide advocacy initiatives include advancing the interests of homeless children in negotiations between Baltimore City Head Start and Baltimore City Public Schools to mutually identify, enroll, and deliver services to these students. In January 2011, HPRP had over 700 active cases pending.⁶

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The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Maryland and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

Nurturing Baltimore's Homeless Children

Parents and Children Together, a non-profit organization in the City of Baltimore, offers two Therapeutic Nurseries for currently or formerly homeless children under the age of three and their families. Serving 24 children and their families at a time for an average of 11 weeks each, the Therapeutic Nurseries establish family rituals and routines to enhance family stability, parent-child relationships, and children's emotional development. In a study of 87 mother-child pairs, all clients experienced stable or improved parent-child interaction. Incoming mothers who scored the lowest participated the most in program activities and achieved the greatest progress.⁷

Reducing Homelessness in Prince George's County

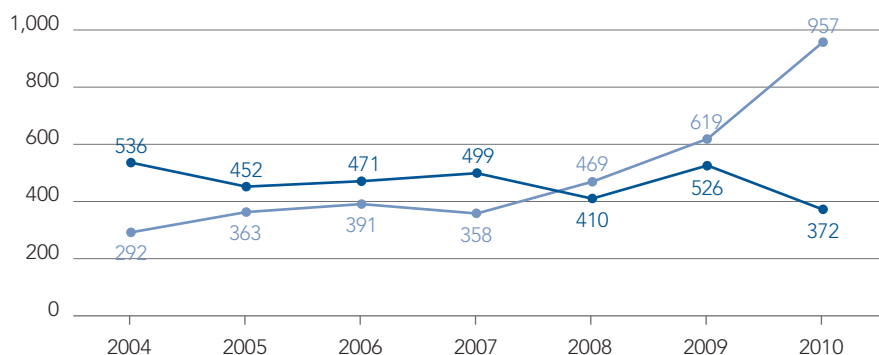
Prince George's County set a five-year goal in 2006 to house 6,855 homeless families and individuals by 2010. During this period, 6,534 homeless households, 95.3% of the original goal, received assistance. The county also aimed to increase the number of emergency shelter and transitional housing beds by 150 and the number of permanent housing units by 55, ultimately exceeding these benchmarks by 9.3% (14 beds) and 336.4% (185 units), respectively.⁸ Between 2006 and 2010, the total number of homeless persons identified on a single night fell 38.9% (to 789) and the number of persons in homeless families declined 24.5% (to 370). The county attributes this decrease to improved targeting of prevention services, with particular focus on large families.⁹

Re-housing Homeless Families in Montgomery County

Since the commencement of its housing first initiative in 2008, Montgomery County has enlarged its permanent supportive housing inventory by 81.7% from 737 beds in 2008 to 1,339 in 2010, with 98.2% of participating households remaining housed at least one year after program entry. Between 2008 and 2010, the county experienced a 9.3% decline (to 372) in its number of literally homeless persons in families, defined as those staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, domestic violence shelters, or places not meant for human habitation (such as streets, parks, and abandoned buildings). This census excludes persons in families in permanent supportive housing, who more than doubled in number (104.1%) to 957 in the same time period.¹⁰

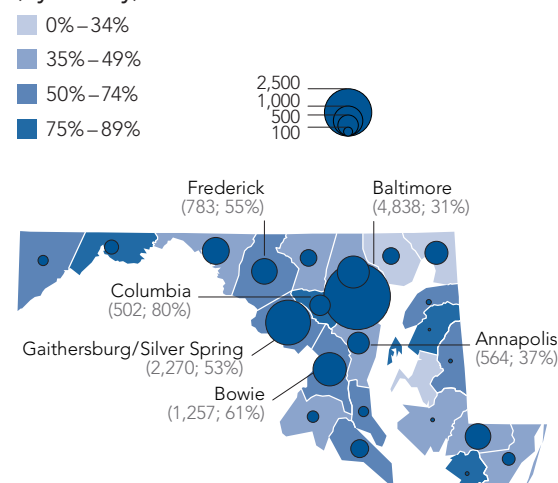
Number of Persons in Homeless Families in Montgomery County (by housing status and year)

- Literally homeless persons in families
- Persons in families in permanent supportive housing



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, *Homeless Enumeration for the Washington Metropolitan Region, 2004–08*; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, *A Regional Portrait of Homelessness: The 2010 Count of Homeless Persons in Metropolitan Washington*.

Number of Sheltered Persons in Homeless Families and Percent of All Clients (by county)



Source: Maryland Department of Human Resources, *Homeless Services in Maryland Annual Report, 2008*.

Endnotes

- ¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2009 *CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- ² U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 *Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- ³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2009 *CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009 *Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 *American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006–2008 *American Community Survey*.
- ⁶ Antonia Fasanelli (Executive Director, Homeless Persons Representation Project), interview with ICPH, December 2010; Homeless Persons Representation Project, <http://www.hprplaw.org>
- ⁷ Alison Heinhold Melley, et al., "Supporting Positive Parenting for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness," *Zero to Three* 30, 3 (2010): 39–45; Parents and Children Together, "Therapeutic Nursery," <http://www.pact.kennedykrieger.org>
- ⁸ Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development, *FY 2010 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report*.
- ⁹ Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, *A Regional Portrait of Homelessness: The 2010 Count of Homeless Persons in Metropolitan Washington*; Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, *Housing First Program Evaluation*, July 2010.
- ¹⁰ Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, *The 2010 Count of Homeless Persons in Metropolitan Washington*; Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, *Housing First Program Evaluation*, July 2010.